

1            **CLAIMS**

2            What is claimed is:

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4            1.        A computer-implemented method comprising:  
5                    receiving information about a multimedia content stream generated by a  
6                    device in a computer network, wherein the received information includes a  
7                    specified time associated with the multimedia content stream;

8                    scheduling a recording of the multimedia content stream at the specified  
9                    time; and

10                    at the specified time,

11                    receiving the multimedia content stream from the device; and  
12                    saving the multimedia content stream in a system memory.

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14            2.        The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, wherein  
15                    the device is a content server connected to the computer network.

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17            3.        The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, wherein  
18                    the information about the multimedia content stream includes a network address  
19                    associated with the location.

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21            4.        The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 3, wherein  
22                    the network address is a uniform resource locator (URL).

1       5. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, wherein  
2 the information about the multimedia content stream is received through an  
3 application program interface.

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5       6. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 5, wherein  
6 the application program interface includes a distributed component object model  
7 (DCOM) interface.

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9       7. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, wherein  
10 receiving information about the multimedia content stream includes receiving a  
11 scheduled recording task.

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13       8. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 7, wherein  
14 the scheduled recording task includes at least one of a unique task identifier, a user  
15 account identifier, a title, a start time, a start date, an end time, an end date, a  
16 recording duration, a URL, a local storage location, a recording quality identifier,  
17 and connection settings.

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19       9. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, further  
20 comprising at the specified time, automatically connecting to the device.

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22       10. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 9, wherein  
23 automatically connecting to the device is performed in accordance with connection  
24 settings included in the information about the multimedia content stream.

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2       11. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, wherein  
3 receiving the multimedia content stream includes specifying a quality of the  
4 stream.

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6       12. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, wherein  
7 receiving the multimedia content stream includes specifying a quality of the  
8 stream in relation to a bandwidth associated with a network connection.

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10      13. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, wherein  
11 the multimedia content stream includes at least one of an on-demand content  
12 stream and a broadcast content stream.

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14      14. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, wherein  
15 the computer network includes at least one of a local area network (LAN), a wide  
16 area network (WAN), and the Internet.

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18      15. One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer  
19 program that is executable by a processor to perform the computer-implemented  
20 method recited in Claim 1.

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22      16. A computer-implemented method comprising:  
23           enabling a user to schedule a recording of a multimedia content stream at a  
24 specified time;

1        creating a scheduled recording task that includes information about the  
2 recording of the multimedia content stream;

3        sending the scheduled recording task to a recording service configured to  
4 perform the scheduled recording task; and

5        tracking the scheduled recording task.

6

7        17. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 16, wherein  
8 enabling the user to schedule the recording includes providing a user interface that  
9 enables the user to input the information about the recording.

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11        18. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 16, wherein  
12 the information about the recording includes at least one of a title, a start time, a  
13 start date, an end time, an end date, a recording duration, a URL, a location in  
14 system memory, a recording quality identifier, recurring data, and connection  
15 settings.

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17        19. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 16, wherein  
18 enabling the user to schedule the recording includes enabling the user to create  
19 recurring recordings.

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21        20. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 16, wherein  
22 sending the scheduled recording task to the recording service includes interacting  
23 with the recording service through an application program interface.

1        21. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 20, wherein  
2 the application program interface is a DCOM interface.

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4        22. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 16, wherein  
5 tracking the scheduled recording task includes obtaining a status of the scheduled  
6 recording task from the recording service.

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8        23. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 22, wherein  
9 tracking the scheduled recording task includes providing the status to the user.

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11       24. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 16, further  
12 comprising if the multimedia content stream is successfully recorded, enabling the  
13 user to access the recorded multimedia content stream.

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15       25. One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer  
16 program that is executable by a processor to perform the computer-implemented  
17 method recited in Claim 16.

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19       26. An apparatus comprising:  
20            means for receiving information about a multimedia content stream  
21 provided by a device coupled to a computer network;  
22            means for scheduling a recording of the multimedia content stream at a  
23 specified time;  
24            means for receiving the multimedia content stream from the location; and

1 means for saving the multimedia content stream in a storage device.

2  
3 27. The apparatus as recited in Claim 26, further comprising means for  
4 receiving the information from one or more application programs.

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6 28. The apparatus as recited in Claim 26, further comprising means for  
7 implementing a digital rights management (DRM) system.

8  
9 29. An apparatus comprising:

10 means for enabling a user to schedule a recording of a multimedia content  
11 stream at a specified time;

12 means for creating a scheduled recording task that includes information  
13 about the recording;

14 means for sending the scheduled recording task to a recording service  
15 configured to perform the scheduled recording task; and

16 means for tracking the scheduled recording task.

17  
18 30. The apparatus as recited in Claim 29, further comprising means for  
19 providing a user interface to the user.

20  
21 31. The apparatus as recited in Claim 29, further comprising means for  
22 enabling the user to create recurring recordings.

1       32. One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a  
2 computer program that, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one  
3 or more processors to:

4           determine information about a multimedia content stream provided at a  
5 device coupled to a computer network, wherein the determined information  
6 includes a specified time associated with the multimedia content stream;

7           schedule a recording of the multimedia content stream at the specified time;  
8 and

9           at the specified time,

10           receive the multimedia content stream from the device; and

11           save the multimedia content stream in a storage device.

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13       33. One or more computer-readable media as recited in Claim 32,  
14 wherein the computer program further causes the one or more processors to obtain  
15 the information from a user through a user interface.

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17       34. One or more computer-readable media as recited in Claim 32,  
18 wherein the computer program further causes the one or more processors to obtain  
19 the information from a content index.

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21       35. A computer comprising:  
22           a network interface configured to connect to a computer network; and  
23           a memory that includes a scheduled recording service configured to receive  
24 a scheduled recording task that includes information about a multimedia content

1 stream provided by a device in the computer network, schedule a recording of the  
2 multimedia content stream at a specified time, receiving the multimedia content  
3 stream from the device, and save the multimedia content stream in the memory.

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5 36. The computer as recited in Claim 35, wherein the scheduled  
6 recording service is further configured to provide an application program interface  
7 for interacting with application programs.

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9 37. The computer as recited in Claim 35, wherein the scheduled  
10 recording service is further configured to operate independent of a user account.

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12 38. The computer as recited in Claim 35, wherein the scheduled  
13 recording service is further configured to automatically establish a network  
14 connection with the device through the network interface for receiving the  
15 multimedia content stream.

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17 39. The computer as recited in Claim 38, wherein the scheduled  
18 recording service is further configured to specify a quality associated with the  
19 multimedia content stream.

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21 40. The computer as recited in Claim 35, wherein the scheduled  
22 recording service is further configured to maintain a configuration file that  
23 includes information about the scheduled recording task.

1           41. The computer as recited in Claim 35, wherein the scheduled  
2 recording service is further configured to maintain a log file that includes a status  
3 associated with the scheduled recording task.

4  
5           42. The computer as recited in Claim 35, wherein the memory further  
6 includes a scheduling application configured to enable a user to schedule a  
7 recording of the multimedia content stream at the specified time, create the  
8 scheduled recording task that includes the information about the recording, send  
9 the scheduled recording task to the scheduled recording service; and track the  
10 scheduled recording task.

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12          43. The computer as recited in Claim 42, wherein the scheduling  
13 application is further configured to provide a user interface to the user for  
14 scheduling the recording.

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16          44. The computer as recited in Claim 42, wherein the scheduling  
17 application is further configured to provide a user interface to the user for tracking  
18 the recording.

19  
20          45. The computer as recited in Claim 42, wherein the scheduling  
21 application is further configured to enable the user to schedule recurring  
22 recordings.